

REMARKS

The pending claims were again rejected as being obvious primarily in view of the cited Nakamura reference. By this amendment applicant has merely clarified the wording of the only independent claims in the application, Claims 33 and 38, and it is believed that the claims are clearly patentable over the cited references for the reasons given below.

Claims 33 and 38 require that a noise compensation circuit is a part of a correction circuit output chip, and both of those claims require that the noise "compensation circuit receives a noise signal and a photo-electric conversion signal, wherein the compensation circuit uses the noise signal to compensate for a noise component in the photo-electric conversion signal". The Office Action acknowledges at page 3 that the Nakamura reference does not disclose the noise compensation capability of Applicant's claims, and, at page 4, it states that the Ansari patent is relied on for "inherently" disclosing noise compensation circuitry.

As shown for example in Fig. 4 of the present application an image signal is provided on line 101 and a noise signal is provided on line 102, and both are received by a noise compensation circuit 200 which uses the noise signal to compensate for the noise component of the image signal.

Ansari, on the other hand, discloses a photo-electric conversion signal received by a CDS circuit, but no noise signal from the pixel is applied to the CDS circuit. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that a review of the Ansari patent does not reveal a correction circuit output chip as required in Applicant's claims. Moreover, Ansari does not disclose a noise signal applied to such an output chip, nor the use of such a noise signal to compensate for a noise component of the image signal.

Accordingly, it is believed that independent Claims 33 and 38, as well as all of their dependent claims, are patentably distinct over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. K. Krause".

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 24613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 412482v1